

## **Matthew Hoyt Biography**

Matthew Hoyt, who joined Gunnison County as the Deputy County Attorney in early 2018, will become the County Attorney in January of 2021. Matthew attended law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and previously obtained his degree (with honors) in journalism from the University of North Carolina.

Matthew began his career at the New Mexico law firm of Modrall, Sperling, Roehl Harris & Sisk, where he practiced oil and gas litigation, environmental law, and tort litigation. Matthew then joined the administration of New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, where he served as assistant general counsel and general counsel during Governor Johnson's second term in office. At the end of the Johnson Administration, Matthew was hired as the general counsel to the New Mexico State Land Office, heading that agency's legal department. After serving the Land Office and New Mexico Land Commissioner Patrick Lyons, Matthew returned to private practice with the boutique law firm of Peifer, Hanson & Mullins, eventually becoming a partner at the firm in 2008. During his tenure at the Peifer law firm, Matthew was lead or managing counsel on a series of high-profile litigation matters, including New Mexico's 2011 redistricting litigation (representing the New Mexico Lieutenant Governor), public records and access-to-courts litigation against a number of state and local agencies (representing the *Albuquerque Journal*, the *Albuquerque Tribune*, the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, KOAT television news, the *Rio Grande Sun*, and other press outlets) that resulted in a number of published decisions, representation of New Mexico gubernatorial candidate Steve Pearce in election litigation against the New Mexico Secretary of State, as well as multi-million dollar class actions against major natural gas producers (including British Petroleum and ConocoPhillips) which Matthew helped successfully prosecute and reach settlements on behalf of the class. Matthew has achieved the highest peer review rating – AV – from Martindale Hubbell, and has been consistently listed in *Best Lawyers in America*®. Matthew was also part of a team of lawyers in his previous firm that was recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the best law firms in the United States. Matthew has also received an award for his work in open government law, and previously served on the Uniform Civil Jury Instructions Committee for the New Mexico Supreme Court. During his time with Gunnison County, Matthew has represented the County in a series of federal and state litigation matters, as well as transaction and administrative matters.